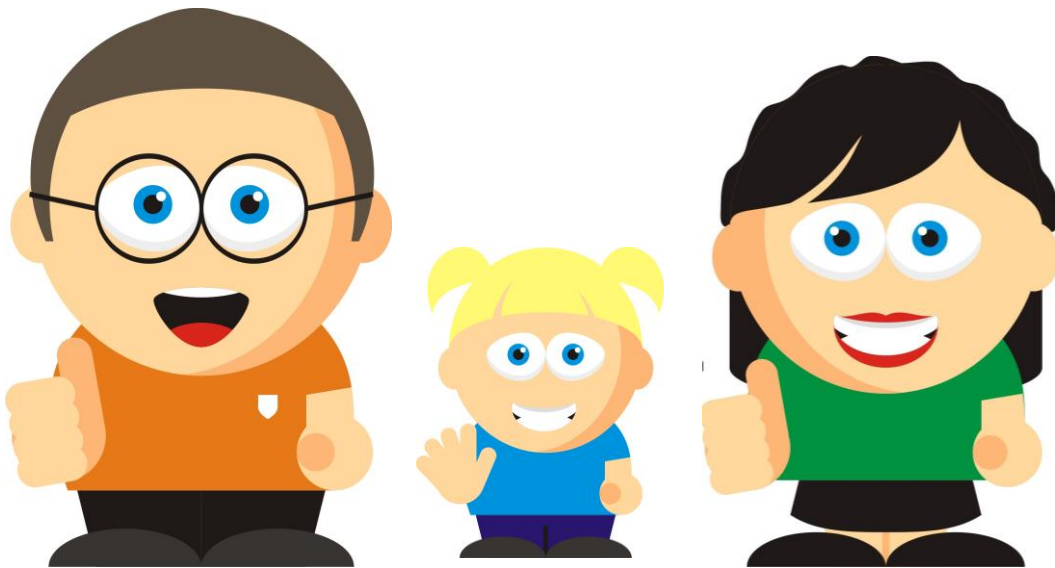


All About Joe



A Children's Guide to Adoption

This is a story all about Joe. Joe used to live with his mammy, daddy and sister Hannah.



Joe's mammy and daddy loved Joe and Hannah very much but could not keep them safe.

Joe and Hannah had a social worker called Laura. A Social Worker is someone whose job it is to help people when they have problems.



Laura was very worried about Joe and Hannah and to make sure they were kept safe she took them to live with Helen and Michael who are foster carers.

A foster carer's job is to look after children who can't live with their own family. Foster carers will do all they can to help you feel safe and cared for while you are away from your family.



They will listen to what you say and help you to stay in touch with your family.

Joe and Hannah started to feel happier living with Helen and Michael.

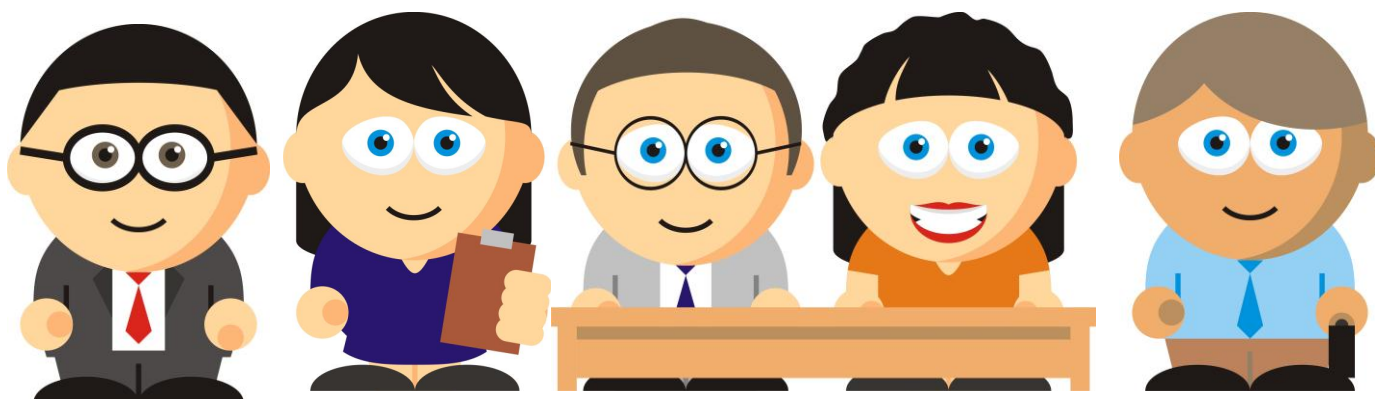
Every Monday and Wednesday Helen took Joe and Hannah to see their Mammy and Daddy at the Children's Centre.



Joe knew that if he was unhappy about anything Helen and Michael were there to help him.

He could also talk to Laura, his Social Worker.

One day there was a meeting with lots of people. They all thought very hard about Joe and Hannah



They decided that it was not safe for Joe and Hannah to live with their mammy and daddy.

They decided that Joe and Hannah should have a new family who they could live with forever.

Laura went to court to speak to the judge who also agreed that they should have a new family.



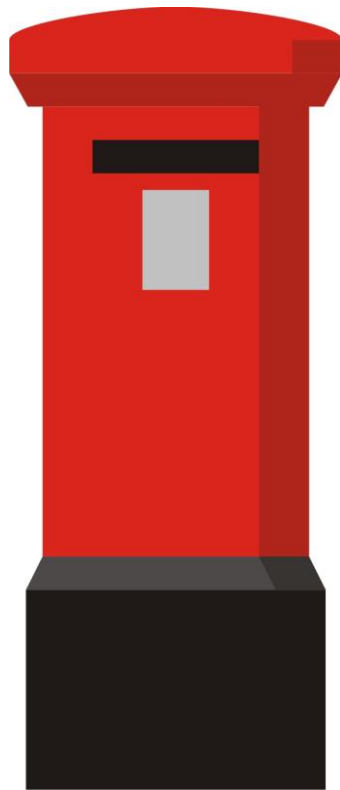
Laura and another social worker looked very hard to find Joe and Hannah a new family who could keep them safe and happy.

When the social workers found a family Joe and Hannah enjoyed spending time getting to know their new family before they went to live with them for ever.



Joe told Laura it was a bit scary at first moving into a new house, but soon it felt ok and they were all very happy together.

Joe missed his birth Mammy and Daddy but knew that they could write to his new family and they would write back to them every year.



This meant that they could keep in contact and know each other were safe and happy.

After Joe and Hannah had lived with their new family for a while, they all went to court to see the Judge. The Judge said they could be a forever family.



This meant that Joe and Hannah were adopted.

Laura said goodbye to Joe and Hannah as they did not need to have a social worker anymore.



They were safe and happy with their new family.

My social worker is called..... and I
can get in touch with them by ringing

My Independent Reviewing Officer is
and I can get in touch with them by ringing.....

Children who are looked after by someone other than their family can
get help from lots of different people if they need to. You can ask
your social worker or carers to contact them for you if you want.

An advocate is someone who will make sure your views are listened to.
To get in touch with an Independent Advocate contact Action for
Children on (0191) 2612602

For more information on children's rights or to get in touch with the
Children's Right's Director please go to the following website:

www.rights4me.org.uk or ring 0800 528 0731

If you are so unhappy that you want to complain about how you are
being looked after, you can ring Client Relations on 0800 373615

Ofsted are there to make sure that everyone is doing the right thing
for you and looking after you properly. To get in touch with Ofsted
ring 0300 1231231

